

REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 1-3, 10 13 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, claim 17 has been amended, new claim 21 has added. Claims 17-21 are pending and under consideration.

Independent claim 17 is directed to collecting data sets from a lead impedance source, a stimulation threshold source, and at least one additional source included in the IMD, and processing the data sets to determine if a lead status event has occurred, wherein the at least one additional source includes one of at least one of a percent time in mode switch source, an R-wave and P-wave amplitude source, a reversion pace count source, a refractory sense count source, a high rate episode count source, and a time from implant source.

None of the referenced prior art documents, alone or in combination, teach this feature. Therefore, claims 17-21 are patentably distinguishable from the referenced prior art documents. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to those matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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